

Now, the fall elections in 1970 will be held for the new charter provisions in all of the counties and under the old charter provision under the old charters. It is very important, if the various counties, Harford, St. Mary's, and what have you, have not adopted a charter of their own by July 1, 1970, under the procedure set out in section 30 or some other procedure designated by the legislature. Then the legislature's model charter which they will provide by law will be their charter, so that on July 1, 1970, every county will know what its charter is going to look like. It will either have adopted one or it will have adopted the legislature's model charter so that in the primaries in September of 1970 and in the general elections in November of 1970, the persons running for elections at that time will be running under the new charters in all of the counties. In other words, on January 1, 1971, all of the counties will have charters, all of the counties will have charter governments in operation; and so the procedure in section 30 is just one procedure to permit them to do that.

Section 31 is a provision for amending charters that comes out of the present Constitution. I stand corrected on section 31. This is a new provision with regard to the amendment of charters, and it was proposed and inserted here very recently. At a matter of fact, inserted since I looked at this last for amending instruments of government, and it comes in through Delegate Moser in the Committee on Local Government. I think it is self-explanatory, though. It permits charter counties to amend their charters. It is statutory, of course.

Section 32 continues county commissioners. The reason that we had to continue county commissioners by an express section is that they were constitutional officers and when we struck down the old Constitution, we struck down the old county commissioners and they had to be continued as legislative officers in the new framework of government.

Section 33, is the same with regard to county surveyors.

*General Provisions.* I think section 34 is self-explanatory. It comes out of the old Constitution.

Section 35 is what I was thinking of actually, and you can see that it is quite different. This comes out of the old Constitution and continues as a procedure for the amendment of the constitution until we have the new constitution going into effect.

Mr. Chairman, I think that is a very superficial and a very skimpy explanation of the whole thing. I hope it gives you some perspective of what we are trying to do. What you should do is to delve into it in greater detail and with more specificity.

*(At this point, Second Vice-President William James assumed the Chair.)*

DELEGATE JAMES (presiding): Before going into our question period, I would like to recognize Delegate Winslow.

DELEGATE WINSLOW: Mr. President, I should like to announce in the rear gallery the presence of thirty-one students from the Hampton Elementary School. They are fifth graders who have made a study of the constitution and I have asked them to pass along any ideas they have as to what we are doing. They are here with their principal, Mrs. Robinson, and with their parents.

Will you please give them your usual welcome to these students who are so much interested in what we are doing?

*(Applause.)*

DELEGATE JAMES (presiding): Thank you very much. We are very happy to have you with us.

When Delegate Hardwicke is ready, we will have our period of questioning.

Are there any questions for purpose of clarification?

Mr. Rybczynski.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Mr. President, shall I confine myself to the early sections?

DELEGATE JAMES (presiding): I think you can make inquiry concerning any section for which you seek clarification.

DELEGATE RYBCZYNSKI: Delegate Hardwicke, if you will refer yourself to page 2, section 3, I still am not clear as to why you have inserted the date of July 1, 1969, in view of your further explanation last evening that it is possible that the General Assembly will do nothing about that section and that the courts will then go on with an interpretation of what it believes to be a correct interpretation of the word "damages". Why do we need a date?

DELEGATE HARDWICKE: The reason is that we want to give the legislature an opportunity to act. If we do not put this deferred date in here, then this provision with regard to damages will go into effect without the legislature having had an op-